

# Property Crime Victims in Indiana

## 2016 Indiana Crime Victimization Survey

*By Meredith Canada, Research Associate*

### INTRODUCTION

In 2017, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), with the assistance of Glengariff Group, Inc., conducted its second Indiana Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS). The survey was modeled after the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.<sup>1</sup> The ICVS seeks to obtain comprehensive information on crime and victimization in Indiana, because currently, there is no statewide standard for collecting and measuring crime and victimization. For example, Indiana often relies on the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, Indiana does not mandate its law enforcement agencies to participate in the UCR Program. Further, UCR only collects information on reports made to police and arrests made by police. ICVS provides an additional measure for crimes and victimization in Indiana.

### METHODOLOGY

ICJI commissioned the Glengariff Group, Inc. (Glengariff) to administer the Indiana Crime Victimization Survey to 2,500 adult Indiana residents, ages 18 and older. The instrument was designed to obtain respondent data on criminal victimization and victim demographics that would generalize to Indiana's total population. Proportionate stratified random sampling is a survey sampling methodology used to ensure that the sample population is representative of the entire population; post-stratification weighting is, therefore, not required. Please see Appendix A for a comparison of the survey sample demographics to Indiana census estimates. Glengariff used random-digit dialing to contact participants. An interview was considered complete if the respondent completed the entire survey instrument. The survey sample was stratified by gender, age, and ethnicity (Hispanic/Latino) according to 2013 United States Census estimates.<sup>3</sup> Indiana counties were stratified into seven geographical regions. The number of respondents required to complete the survey in each county was determined by the county's percentage of Indiana's total population. Glengariff reported that survey results have a margin of error of +/-1.96% with a 95% level of confidence.

Participants were asked if they, and in some cases if a member of their household, were a victim of 17 different crimes during 2016. The survey sought out prevalence level data only. Respondents were asked if they experienced at least one victimization for the 17 different crimes in 2016. Crimes included property crime (burglary, three motor vehicle theft crimes, property theft, and vandalism), violent crime (rape, substance-induced rape, other sexual assault, domestic violence, physical assault, aggravated physical assault, and robbery), stalking and intimidation, and identity theft (credit card, other financial account, and personal information). Respondents

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<sup>1</sup> United States Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). National crime victimization survey. Accessed at <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>

<sup>2</sup> United States Department of Justice. (n.d.). Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Accessed at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/>

<sup>3</sup> United States Census Bureau. (n.d.). 2011-2013 3-Year American Community Survey data. Accessed at <https://factfinder.census.gov>

who experienced at least one victimization were asked follow-up questions, including if they notified the police after at least one incident and their relationship to the offender(s) during at least one of the incidents.

The ICVS included questions regarding theft inside and outside the respondent's residence, theft of the respondent's or a household member's vehicle, vehicle parts, items inside the vehicle, and damage to the respondent's or a household member's personal property.

This report summarizes the following findings for Indiana residents:

- Demographic characteristics of property crime by six types of crime, including household burglary, outside property theft, vehicle theft, vehicle parts theft, theft of property inside a vehicle, or destruction of personal property;
- Relationship of victim to the perpetrator of the property crime; and,
- Reports of the crime to law enforcement.

### **PROPERTY CRIME – GENERAL**

Respondents were identified as victims of a *property crime* if they answered *yes* to one or more of the following questions:

#### *Household burglary*

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During 2016, did anyone break in or attempt to break into your home, garage, shed or other buildings on your property?

#### *Property theft*

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During 2016, were any items such as bicycles, lawn furniture or toys, belonging to you or a household member stolen from OUTSIDE your home?

#### *Motor vehicle theft*

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During 2016, were any vehicles such as a car, truck, van, motorcycle or moped belonging to you or a household member stolen?

#### *Vehicle parts theft*

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Were any vehicle parts, such as tires, fuel, batteries, or hubcaps belonging to you or a household member stolen? These would be parts, not the full vehicle.

#### *Miscellaneous vehicle items theft*

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During 2016, were any items such as cash, CDs, an iPod, cell phones, bags, purses, packages or any similar items taken from the inside of a vehicle belonging to you or a household member?

#### *Vandalism*

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During 2016, did anyone vandalize, intentionally damage or destroy any property belonging to you or a household member such as a vehicle, your home, farm equipment, a garage, a mailbox or other types of property?

The ICVS measured property crimes of household burglary, property theft, motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle parts theft, miscellaneous vehicle items theft, and vandalism. Some respondents or members of their households were the victim of more than one type of property crime in 2016. 17.1% of survey respondents (426) were the victim of at least one type of property crime, and 134 (5.3%) respondents were the victim of more than one type of property crime in the last year. Property crime was the second most prevalent crime measured by the ICVS, behind identity theft. Respondents who indicated that they or a household member were a victim of property crime tended to be less than 35 years old or had an annual household income of less than \$30,000. There did not appear to be a strong association between education level and property crime; however, having some college education was significantly associated with household burglary.

Table 1 illustrates the demographic characteristics of the overall survey population compared with the population of respondents or a respondent's household member who experienced at least one property crime in 2016. A comparison of proportions test was conducted comparing the *Experienced at least one property crime* respondents with the population that did not experience property crime victimization. Proportions found to be significantly different at the 0.05 level are indicated below.

Slightly more than half, 50.7%, of respondents were female. The age category of 45-54 had the most respondents, 20.8%, followed by age categories 25-34 and 35-44, which had 20.1% respondents each. The majority of respondents, 88.1%, identified as *Caucasians/White*, and 233 or 9.6% of respondents identified as *African American/Black*. About 6% of respondents identified as *Hispanic/Latino*. 28.7% of respondents had a college degree, and 25.5% of respondents had a high school diploma or GED. Roughly one in four respondents (23.2%) indicated that their annual household income was \$50,000 to \$74,999; the next highest category (20.2%) had household incomes of \$100,000 or more.

Property crime was the second most common crime of the ICVS with 17.1%, or 426, respondents indicating that they or a member of their household had been a victim of at least one property crime in 2016. The demographic categories of gender and Hispanic/Latino demonstrated no significant difference in the proportion of respondents who reported no property crime victimization compared to those who did experience any property crime victimization. The proportions of respondents between the ages of 18 and 34, those who identified as being more than one race, individuals with some college, or those with household incomes less than \$30,000 had a greater proportion of respondents who indicated at least one property crime victimization compared to those in their respective demographic category who had no property crime victimization in 2016. This suggests, with 95% certainty, that these respondents were more likely to experience any property crime victimization.

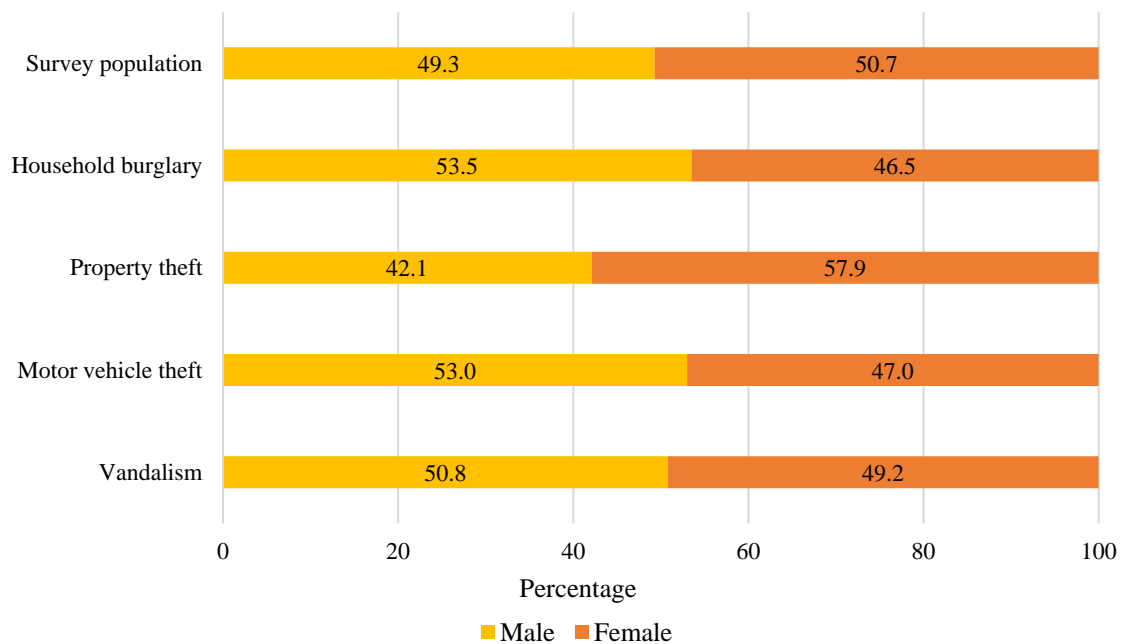
Table 1. Demographic characteristics of survey respondents

Demographic characteristics	Survey population (Percent)	Experienced at least one property crime (Percent)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	49.3	51.9
Female	50.7	48.1
<b>Age</b>		
18-24	5.9	13.2*
25-34	20.1	23.5*
35-44	20.1	18.6
45-54	20.8	18.8
55-64	20.0	16.5*
65+	13.1	9.4*
<b>Race</b>		
Caucasian/White	82.3	78.0*
African American/Black	9.6	11.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.2	1.7
Asian	0.9	0.0*
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.0
Two or more	2.6	4.9*
Other	3.3	3.7
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Not Hispanic or Latino	94.3	92.9
Hispanic or Latino	5.7	7.1
<b>Education level</b>		
Less than high school	5.4	4.5
High school diploma/GED	25.5	28.1
Some college	19.7	23.6*
Technical/vocational school	3.7	4.0
Associate degree	8.2	9.0
College degree	28.7	25.7
Post graduate work/degree	8.9	5.0*
<b>Household income</b>		
Less than \$10,000	4.8	8.0*
\$10,000 to \$29,999	16.7	21.8*
\$30,000 to \$49,999	20.1	20.9
\$50,000 to \$74,999	23.2	23.5
\$75,000 to \$99,999	15.0	12.6
\$100,000 or more	20.2	13.2*

Significance level: \*p&lt;0.05

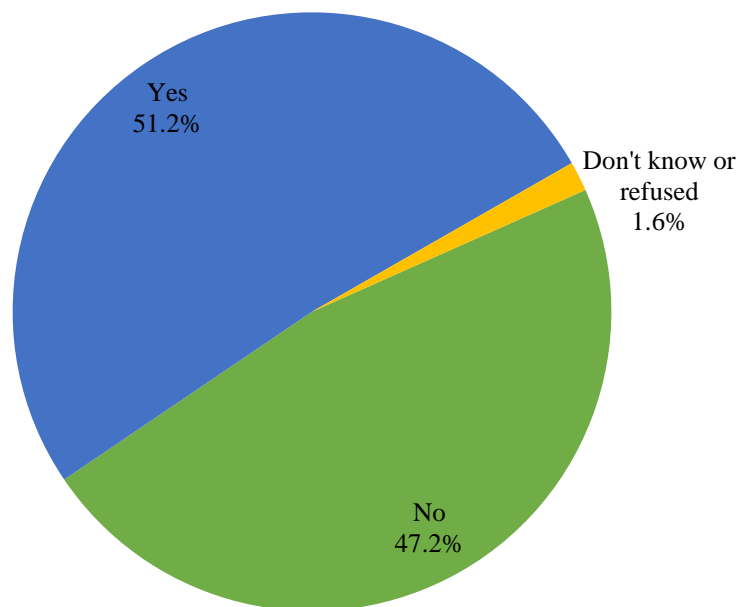
According to Figure 1, while men make up slightly less than half, 49.3%, of all respondents, they or a member of their household experienced at least one *household burglary*, *any motor vehicle theft*, and *vandalism* property crime at a higher proportion than women in 2016. Women were overrepresented as victims of *property theft* crimes compared to men. However, property crimes and gender were not found to be significantly associated.

Figure 1. Percentage of Indiana property crime victims by gender, 2016



A little more than half (51.2%) of respondents or a member of their household reported at least one property crime to the police (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Report of at least one property crime to law enforcement in 2016



*Motor vehicle theft* and *household burglary* were the most common crimes reported to the police (Table 2). *Property theft* and *vehicle parts theft* were the least common crimes reported to the police. About one in three (134 of 294) respondents or their household member who did not report property crime to the police indicated they *believed police would not be able to do anything or would be inefficient*. About 31% (116 of 294) of all respondents indicated they or a household

member did not report at least one property crime, because they *felt the offense was minor or not important*.

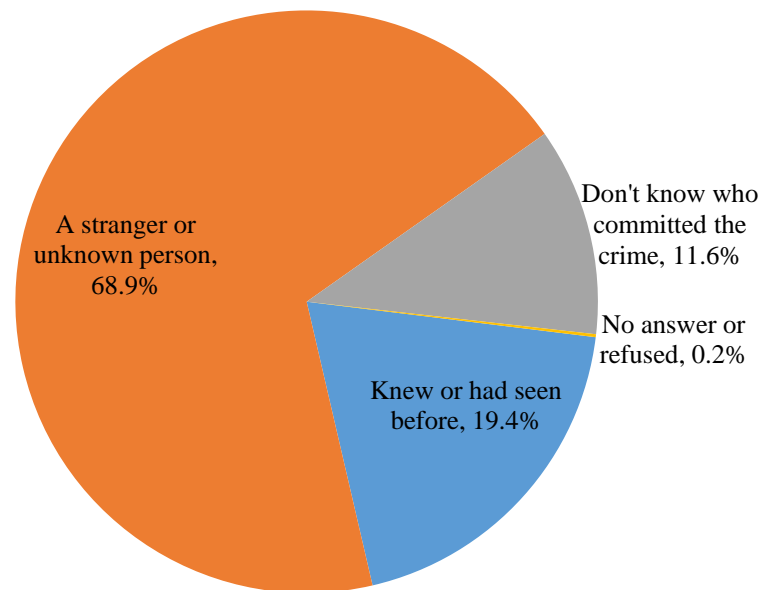
Table 2. Reasons given for not reporting at least one crime to the police in 2016

	All responses	Household burglary	Property theft	Motor vehicle theft crimes			Vandalism
				Motor vehicle theft	Vehicle parts theft	Miscellaneous vehicle items theft	
Percent not reporting crime to the police	47.2	33.9	66.7	20.0	63.3	52.9	41.3
Reason not reported to the police							
Believed the police would not be able to do anything or would be inefficient	35.3	25.5	45.7	25.0	41.9	30.9	32.7
Felt the offense was minor or not important	30.5	29.4	33.7	0.0	37.2	37.0	23.1
Believed it was a private or personal matter and the police didn't need to be involved	15.0	17.6	9.8	37.5	9.3	18.5	16.3
Did not find out about it right away	7.9	5.9	5.4	0.0	11.6	6.2	11.5
Did not want to get offender into trouble	4.5	11.8	2.2	12.5	0.0	3.7	4.8
Didn't know the incident was a crime	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	4.8
Feared the offender or others	1.3	2.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.9
Other	2.6	7.8	1.1		0.0	0.0	2.9
Don't know or refused	1.6	1.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.9

For *Reason not reported to the police*, respondents could choose more than one answer.

More than two-thirds (68.9%) of respondents stated the perpetrator of at least one property crime in 2016 was a *stranger or unknown person*, while about one in five (19.4%) stated they or their household member *knew or had seen* the perpetrator (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Relationship of perpetrators to property crime victims



#### PROPERTY THEFT VICTIMIZATION

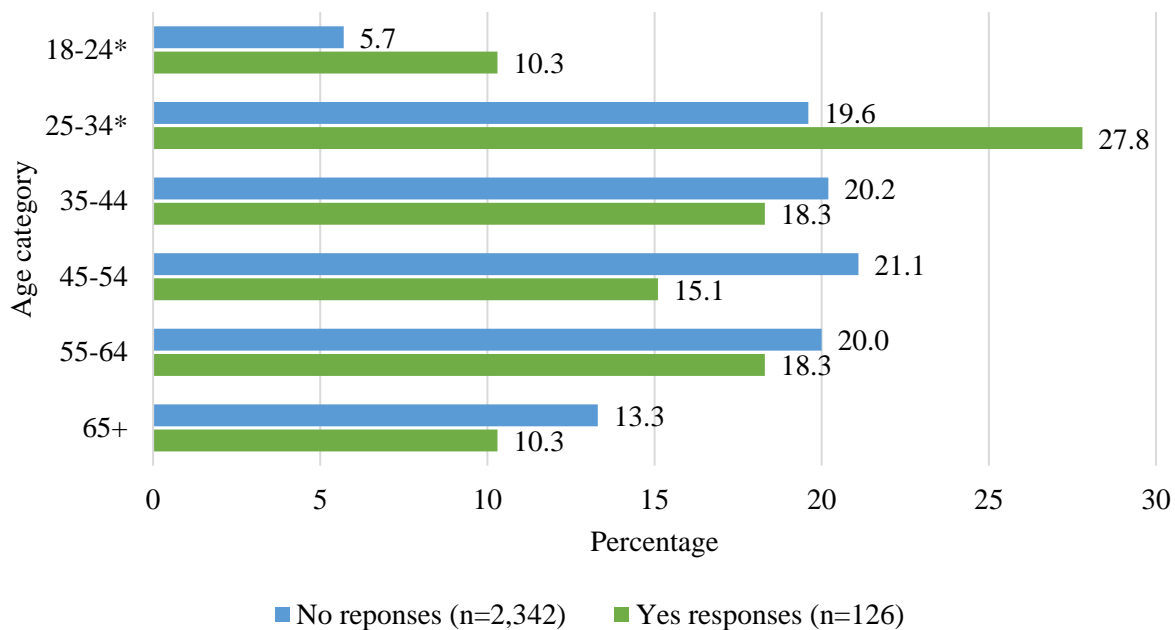
For Figures 4A through 7C, comparison of proportions tests were calculated to determine statistically significant differences in victimization by *age*, *education*, and *household income* at 95% confidence. Chi-square values, degrees of freedom, and significance levels are reported.

#### HOUSEHOLD BURGLARY

About 1 out of every 20 (127) survey respondents was a victim of *household burglary*. The charts below compare the proportion of *yes* responses to the proportion of *no* responses among age groups, education levels, and household incomes for the question, *during 2016, did anyone break in or attempt to break into your home, garage, shed or other buildings on your property?*

As illustrated in Figure 4A, the 25-34 age group represented the largest proportion (27.8%) of respondents who experienced at least one *household burglary* in 2016. The *household burglary* victims who fell within the 18-24 and 25-34 age categories were disproportionately overrepresented when compared to the age distribution of *No* responses, suggesting that these age groups had a higher risk for *household burglary* victimization ( $X^2=11.516$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=0.042$ ).

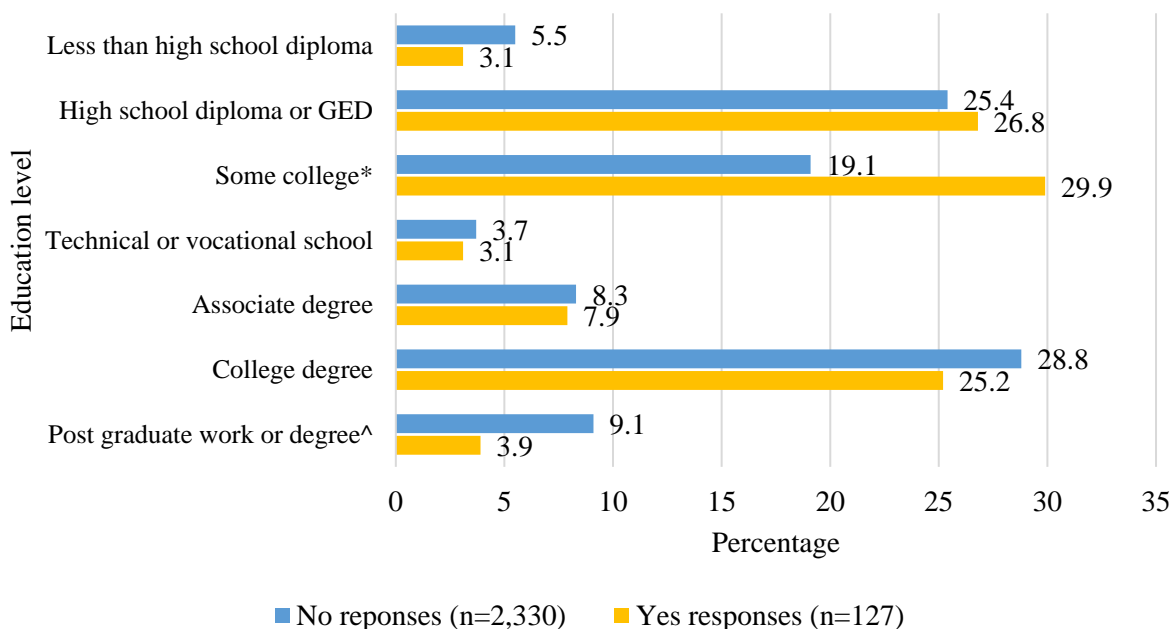
Figure 4A. Household burglary by age group



\*For these age groups, proportion of *yes* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *no* responses

Of all *household burglary* respondents, 29.9% had *some college* (Figure 4B); these individuals demonstrated a disproportionate overrepresentation of *household burglary* victimization. Individuals with *post graduate work or degree* were disproportionately less likely to be victims of *household burglary* ( $X^2=12.858$ ,  $df=6$ ,  $p=0.045$ ).

Figure 4B. Household burglary by education level



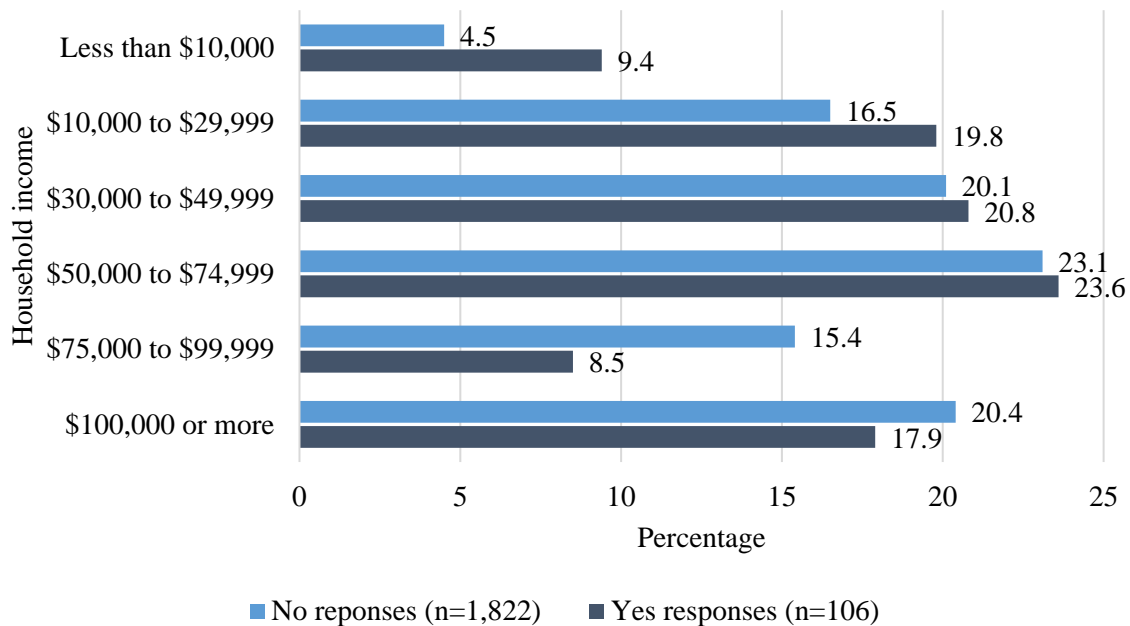


^For these education levels, proportion of *no* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *yes* responses

\*For these education levels, proportion of *yes* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *no* responses

The relationship between *household income* and *household burglary* was not significant ( $X^2=9.242$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=0.100$ ; Figure 4C).

Figure 4C. Household burglary by household income

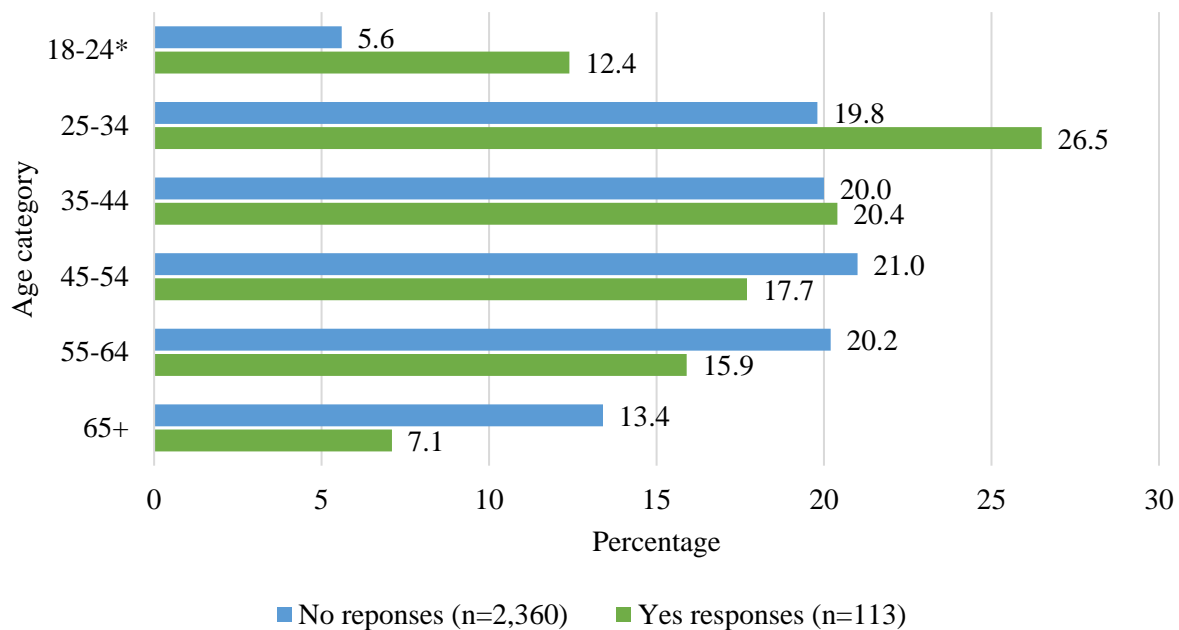


### PROPERTY THEFT

About one in twenty (4.6%) of survey respondents were a victim of *property theft*. The charts below compare the proportion of *yes* responses to the proportion of *no* responses among age group, education level, and household income for the question, *during 2016, were any items such as bicycles, lawn furniture or toys, belonging to you or a household member stolen from OUTSIDE your home?*

Figure 5A demonstrates that age group *18-24* demonstrated a significant relationship with *property theft* victimization, which suggested that this age group was most likely to experience *property theft* or have a household member experience *property theft* ( $X^2=15.572$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=0.008$ ).

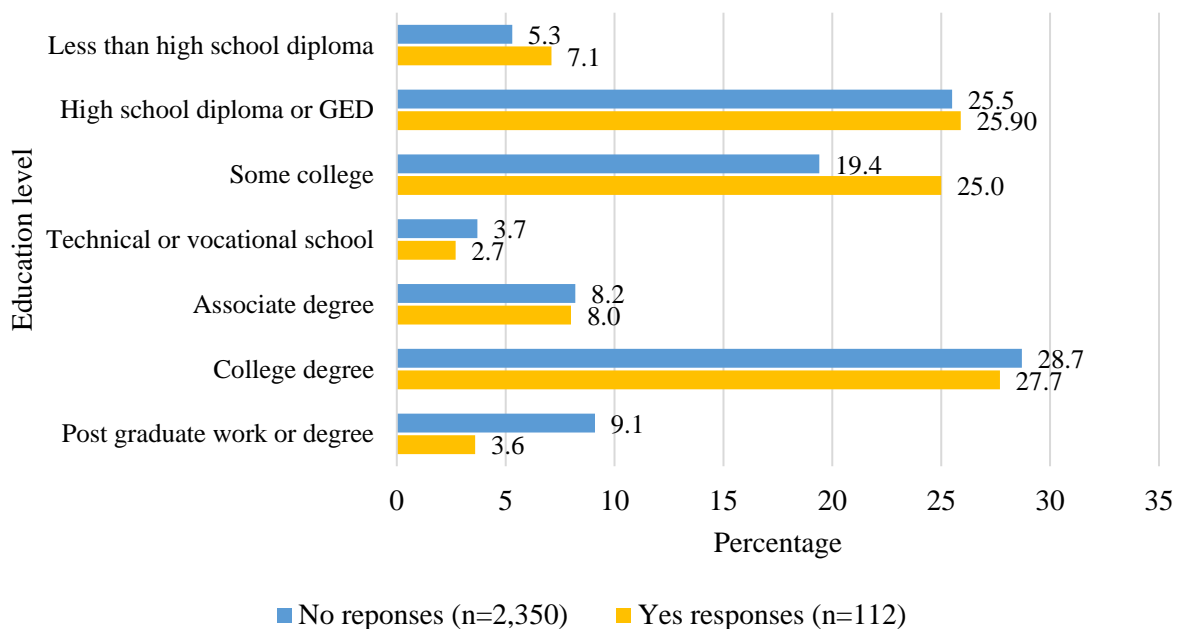
Figure 5A. Property theft by age group



\*For these age groups, proportion of *yes* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *no* responses

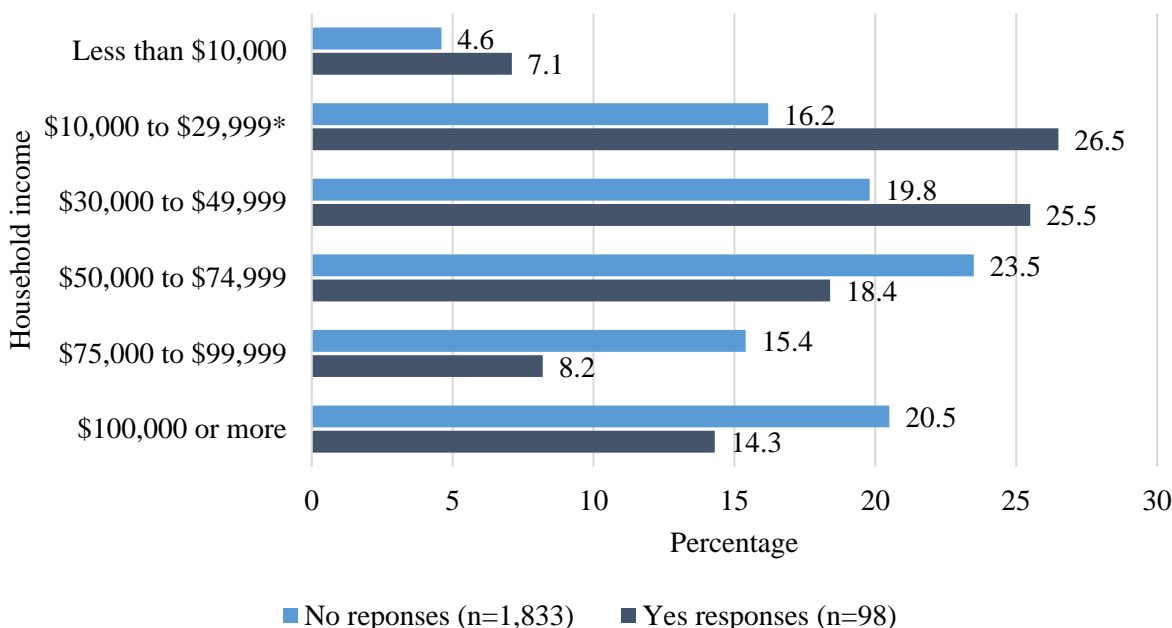
No effect of *education level* was observed on *property theft* ( $X^2=6.440$ ,  $df=6$ ,  $p=0.376$ ; Figure 5B).

Figure 5B. Property theft by educational level



As illustrated in Figure 5C, the household income category of \$10,000 to \$29,999 was significantly associated with increased risk for *property theft* when comparing to the proportion of *yes* responses to the proportion of *no* responses within income categories ( $X^2=14.721$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=0.012$ ).

Figure 5C. Property theft by household income



\*For these income levels, proportion of *yes* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *no* responses

### MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT CRIMES

About 7%, or 181 survey respondents or their household members, experienced any *motor vehicle theft crime*. Twenty-one individuals or their household members, or less than 1% of all respondents, experienced more than one type of *motor vehicle theft crime* in 2016.

Respondents or their household members were considered a victim of any *motor vehicle theft crime* if they answered *yes* to one of the following questions:

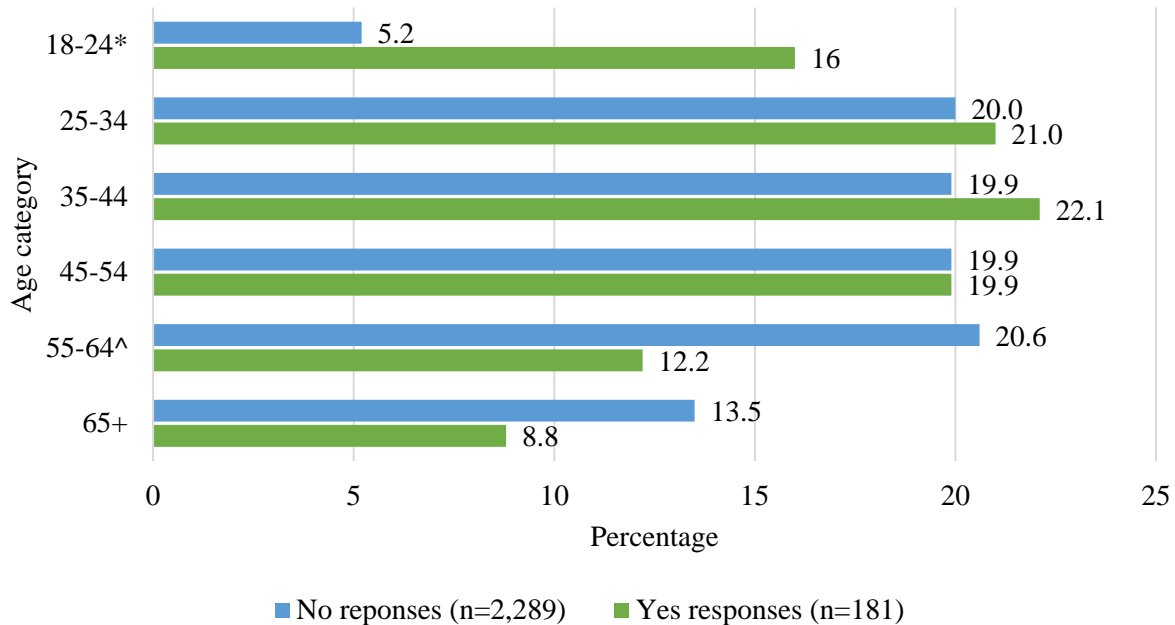
- During 2016, were any vehicles such as a car, truck, van, motorcycle or moped belonging to you or a household member stolen?
- Were any vehicle parts, such as tires, fuel, batteries, or hubcaps belonging to you or a household member stolen? These would be parts, not the full vehicle.
- During 2016, were any items such as cash, CDs, an iPod, cell phones, bags, purses, packages or any similar items taken from the inside of a vehicle belonging to you or a household member?

The charts below compare the proportion of *yes* responses to the proportion of *no* responses for one or more *motor vehicle theft crime* across age group, education level, and household income.

For age group 18-24, the proportion of individuals who responded *yes* was significantly larger than the proportion of individuals who responded *no* (Figure 6A). Individuals between the ages of 55

and 64 had a significant, decreased likelihood for any *motor vehicle theft crime* ( $X^2=42.526$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

Figure 6A. Motor vehicle theft crimes by age group

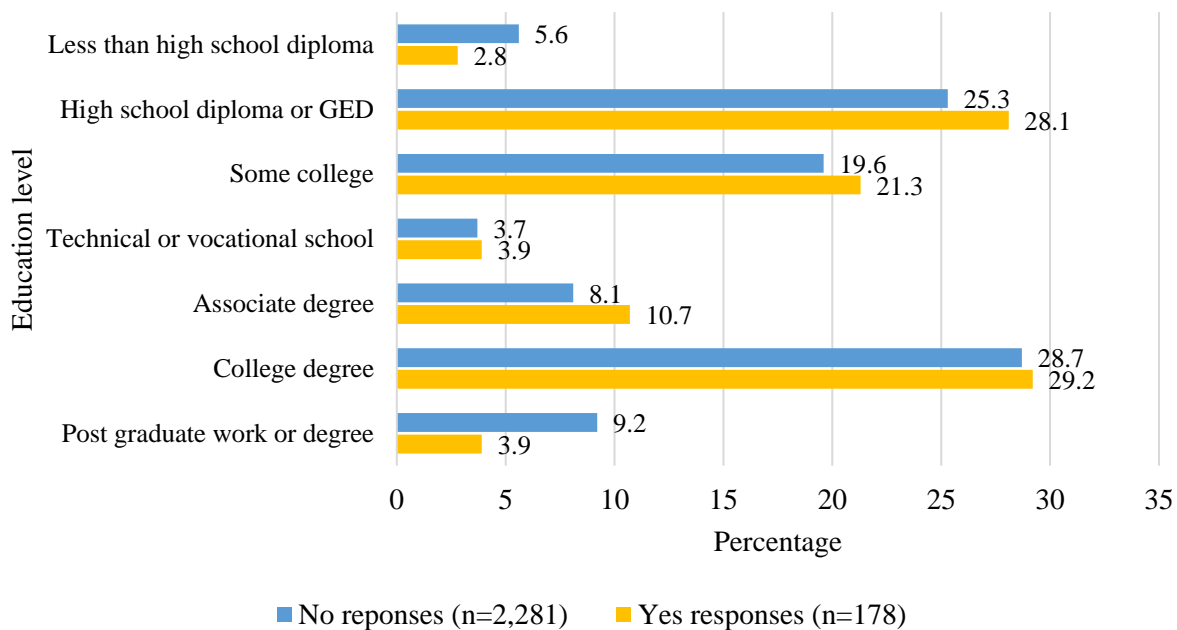


^For these age groups, proportion of *no* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *yes* responses

\*For these age groups, proportion of *yes* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *no* responses

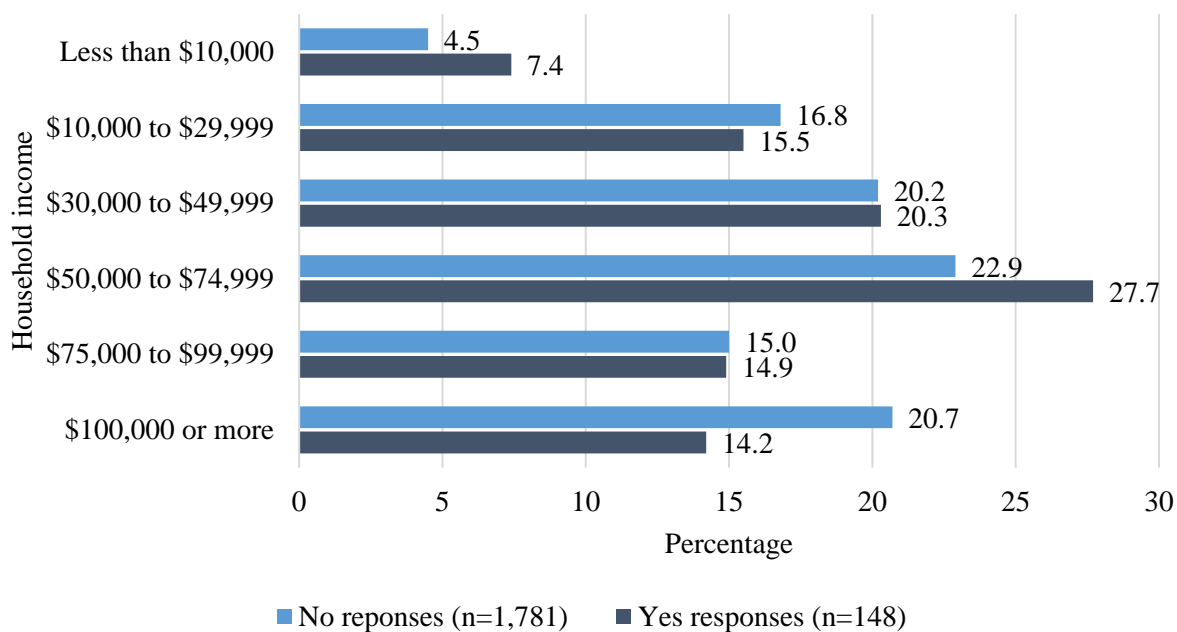
There was no significant relationship demonstrated between *education level* and *motor vehicle theft crime* in 2016 ( $X^2=9.743$ ,  $df=6$ ,  $p=0.136$ ; Figure 6B).

Figure 6B. Motor vehicle theft crimes by educational level



According to Figure 6C, there was no evidence that *household income* was linked with any *motor vehicle theft crime* ( $X^2=6.737$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=0.241$ ).

Figure 6C. Motor vehicle theft crimes by household income



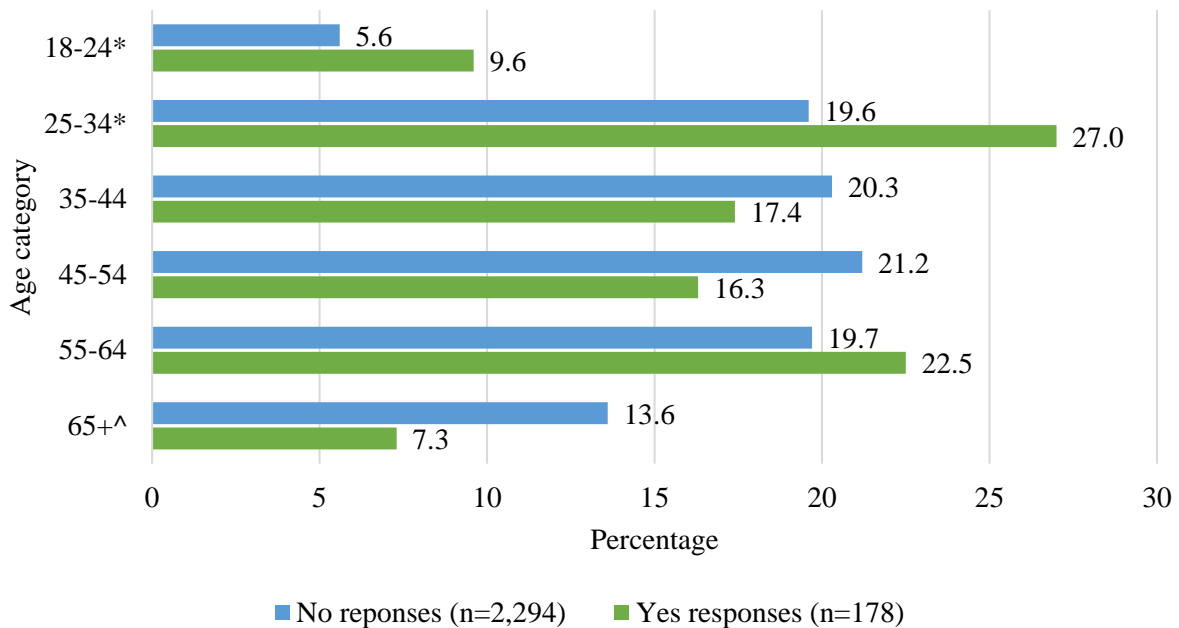
## VANDALISM

One hundred seventy-nine (7%) survey respondents or a member of their household were a victim of at least one *vandalism* crime in 2016. The charts below compare the proportion of *yes* responses to the proportion of *no* responses among age group, education level, and household income for the

question, *During 2016, did anyone vandalize, intentionally damage or destroy any property belonging to you or a household member such as a vehicle, your home, farm equipment, a garage, a mailbox or other types of property?*

The largest age group to experience *vandalism* or have a household member experience *vandalism* was 25 to 34 (Figure 7A). Respondent age groups 18-24 and 25-34 were significantly associated with *vandalism* and demonstrated a disproportionate overrepresentation of *vandalism* crimes across age groups. Age group 65+ was associated with disproportional underrepresentation, representing a significant decrease in risk for *vandalism* ( $X^2=16.971$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=0.005$ ).

Figure 7A. Vandalism by age group

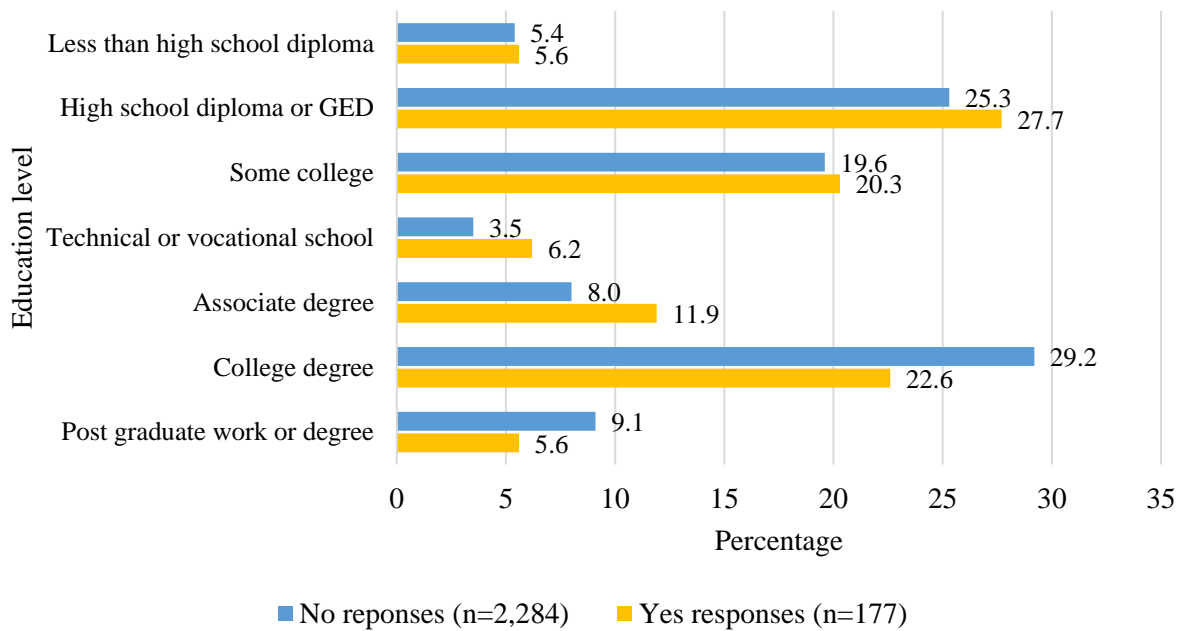


^For these age groups, proportion of *no* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *yes* responses

\*For these age groups, proportion of *yes* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *no* responses

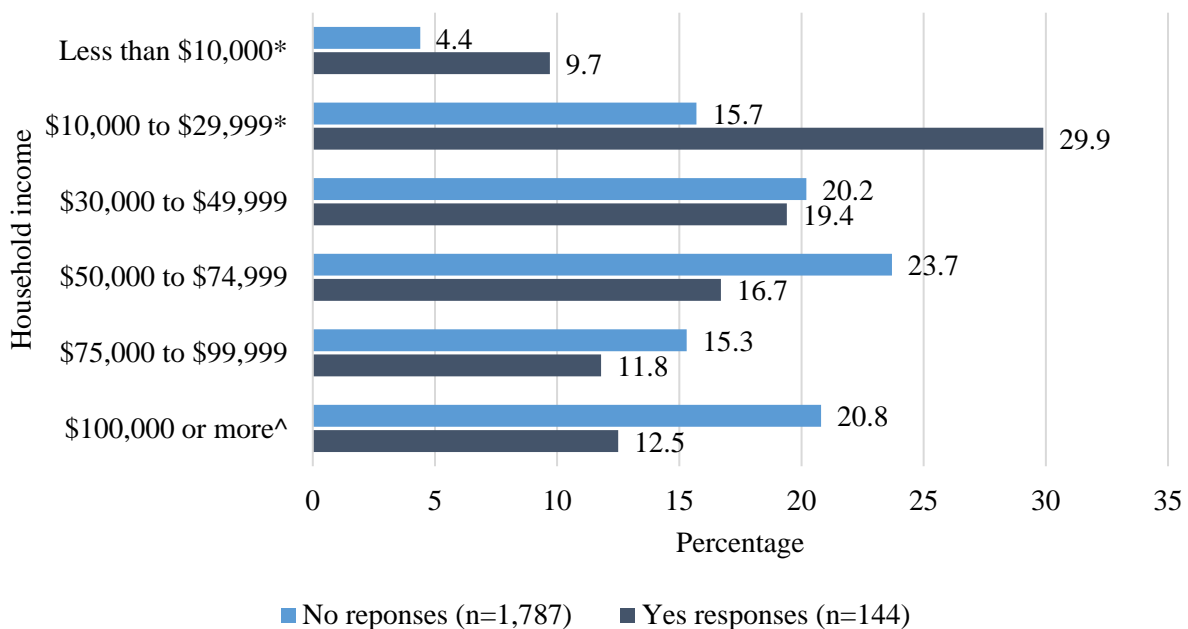
According to Figure 7B, education level did not demonstrate any effect on *vandalism* in 2016 ( $X^2=11.406$ ,  $df=6$ ,  $p=0.077$ ).

Figure 7B. Vandalism by education level



Household income categories *Less than \$10,000* and *\$10,000 to \$29,999*, were associated with an increased risk for *vandalism* (Figure 7C). Respondents with an income of *\$100,000 or more* demonstrated a decreased likelihood for *vandalism* ( $X^2=35.571$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p<0.001$ ).

Figure 7C. Vandalism by household income



^For these income levels, proportion of *no* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *yes* responses

\*For these income levels, proportion of *yes* responses is significantly greater than the proportion of *no* responses

#### Appendix A: Survey Sample and Indiana Census Estimates Comparisons

Demographic Characteristics	Sample	Indiana (2013 Census Estimates) <sup>+</sup>
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	49.3	49.2
Female	50.7	50.8
<b>Age<sup>#</sup></b>		
18-24	5.9	13.4
25-34	19.9	16.9
35-44	19.8	16.7
45-54	20.6	18.6
55-64	19.8	16.5
65 and older	13.0	17.9
Unknown/Refused	1.0	n/a
<b>Race</b>		
African American/Black	9.3	9.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.1	0.2
Asian	0.9	1.7
Caucasian/White	79.8	84.3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.03
Two or More Races	2.6	2.2
Other Race	0.1	2.4
Unknown/Refused	2.8	n/a
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic	5.6	6.3
Non-Hispanic	93.4	93.7
Unknown/Refused	1.0	n/a
<b>Education Level<sup>*</sup></b>		
Less than a high school diploma	5.3	12.5
High school/GED graduate	25.1	35.0
Some college	19.4	20.9
Technical/vocation school or certificate	3.6	n/a
Associate degree	8.1	8.1
College graduate	28.2	15.0
Post graduate degree/work	8.7	8.5
Unknown/Refused	1.5	n/a
<b>Household Income<sup>^</sup></b>		
Less than \$10,000	3.7	7.7



\$10,000-\$29,999	12.9	23.1
\$30,000-\$49,999	15.6	21.2
\$50,000-\$74,999	17.9	19.3
\$75,000-\$99,999	11.6	12.3
\$100,000 or more	15.6	16.4
Unknown/Refused	22.7	n/a

+Based on the 2013 United States Census estimates<sup>4</sup>

#Census age estimates add up to 4,950,486

\*US Census Bureau estimates are only for population 25 years and older (n=4,287,171)

^US Census Bureau estimates represent number of households (n=2,482,558) not respondents



### **THE INDIANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE**

Guided by a Board of Trustees representing all components of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety, and victim services. The Institute develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies

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<sup>4</sup> United States Census Bureau. (n.d.). 2011-2013 3-Year American Community Survey data. Accessed at <https://factfinder.census.gov>